

REMARKS

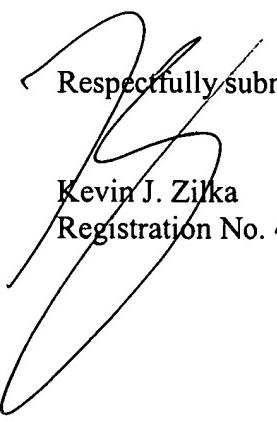
The Examiner has rejected Claims 32-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbert, U.S. Patent No.: 5,333,183, in view of Gavan et al., U.S. Patent No.: 6,601,048. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejection.

Specifically, the invention in this application was conceived of and/or reduced to practice at least as early as July 20, 1997, which predates the effective date of the Gavan reference. See attached declaration and exhibit.

A notice of allowance or a proper prior art showing of each of the claimed features, in combination with the remaining claim elements, is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. For payment of the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. XACTP014C). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,


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